Amendments to the Claims

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1. (currently amended) A method of allocating an address to a certificate to be stored enable the storage of said certificate in an addressable database for subsequent retrieval and use in a cryptographic system, said method comprising the steps of:_____
   ___generating a string for use as a certificate locator, said string being generated from information contained in a certificate request for said certificate; and_____
   ___utilizing said string to obtain said address for retrieving a corresponding certificate from said database.

2. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said string is mapped to an address in said directory database.

3. (currently amended) A method according to claim 1 wherein said string is used as said address in said directory database.

4. (original) A method according to claim 1 wherein a mathematical function is applied to said information to obtain said string.

5. (original) A method according to claim 4 wherein said mathematical function is a hash function.

6. (original) A method according to claim 5 wherein said string is a portion of the output of said hash function.

7. (currently amended) A method of identifying to a recipient, an address of a certificate to a recipient of a signed message in a data communication system, said method comprising the steps of preparing a set of information for inclusion in a certificate request, generating from said set of information a string for use as a certificate locator to enable a corresponding certificate to be located in a database, and forwarding said string to said recipient to indicate

the location of said certificate in said database for subsequent retrieval.

8. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein said information includes a time varying element.

9. (original) A method according to claim 7 wherein a predetermined mathematical function is applied to said information to obtain said string.

10. (currently amended) A method for maintaining certificates in a public key infrastructure having a certification authority and a pair of correspondents, said method comprising the steps of collating collecting at one of said correspondents, information comprising a request for a certificate of said certification authority, forwarding said request to said certification authority, computing a string from said information comprising said request a string for use as a certificate locator by said one correspondent and said certification authority, storing a certificate issued from said request in a directory database at an address obtained being identifiable from said string, and forwarding said locator from said one correspondent to another of said correspondents to permit retrieval of said certificate from said directory database.

11. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein said information includes a time varying element.

12. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein communication between said one correspondent and said certification authority is performed over a secure channel.

13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein said other correspondent obtains an address of said certificate from a known address of said directory database and said string.

14. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein said other correspondent forwards said locator to said certification authority for construction of said address.

15. (original) A method according to claim 10 wherein said string is computed by application of a cryptographic hash function at least part of said request.

16. (original) A method according to claim 15 wherein said part includes a time varying element.

17. (currently amended) A method according to claim 15 wherein a portion of the output of said hash function is used as said [[bit]] string.

18. (currently amended) A method according to claim 10 wherein said [[but]] string is utilised as a pointer to an address in a directory said database.